

open space of at least one square without any building thereon, and inasmuch as all the said rooms of each of the said buildings cannot be lighted and ventilated from the street, the said buildings have been severally built and are contrary to the rules and directions of the said Act first herein mentioned."

#### STAIRS IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

With regard to the chapel of the Pounding Hospital, Guildford-street, in the district of St. Pancras, it was desirable to provide additional stair accommodation for the public, and "there being no means of making such stairs fireproof" (as was stated), the same were constructed of woodwork. Doubts arising in the mind of the district-surveyor (Mr. Baker) as to whether the rules of Schedule C, part 6, applied to the said works, a joint requisition was sent to the official referees to request their opinion thereon.

The referees determined, "that inasmuch as the said gallery has not been altered or enlarged since the passing of the Metropolitan Buildings Act, it is not required by that Act to form any fire-proof stairs or accesses to such gallery; and that the erection of the said wooden stairs, in addition to the wooden stairs which had been in use before the passing of the Metropolitan Buildings Act, is not contrary to the rules of the said Schedule C, part 6."

#### THE ART-UNION OF LONDON.

"THE SMILE," AND "THE FROWN."

THESE engravings, which are now being given to subscribers of the current year on payment of the subscription, an arrangement made by the council to prevent a complaint on the part of members, which, looked at properly, is seen to be most unreasonable, that they have to wait some time before they obtain their prints,—are exceedingly well executed by C. W. Sharp and W. D. Taylor, after two most characteristic works of the artist, Mr. Webster, R.A.

Originally these were to have been issued by a print publisher, and the pair would have been priced at two guineas. As members are, in addition to these, to receive for each guinea subscribed a beautiful series of etchings from drawings by Mr. MacIise, R.A., illustrative of Shakespeare's "Seven Ages," and a chance in the distribution of prizes,—to say nothing of a copy of the report, tickets for their friends for the exhibition and the general meeting, coupled with the satisfaction of knowing that they are also aiding the rising artists of the country, the number of subscribers can scarcely fail to be very large.

During the past week two or three correspondents of the *Times* have been permitted to abuse the works issued by the society, and to make some very erroneous statements, we hope unknowingly. The anonymous writer of the first letter which appeared called MacIise's outlines "a complete failure—at all events, a very weak production;" and says, as to "The Smile" and "The Frown," he "can only designate them as twaddle," and an "ineane production." It would be more than sufficient, in answer to this, to give simply the opinion of the *Times* itself, which had previously said—"The choice of pictures for the engravings with which the subscribers are presented has been most judicious, for no works could be more generally acceptable, or more characteristic of the excellent artist who produced them, than 'The Smile' and 'The Frown.' Further, 'they are admirably engraved.'"

It happens, however, that the whole of the press, so far as we have seen, are unanimous in their praise. Confining ourselves to such London papers as happen to be before us, the *Athenæum*, unfortunately never willing to speak well of the Art-Union, talks of Mr. Webster's "two admirable little pictures" and Mr. MacIise's highly poetical outlines illustrative of the "Seven Ages." The *Atlas* says the pictures are "admirably engraved." The *Spectator*, after expressions of admiration, says, "the companion prints form a work of which English art may be proud;" and the *Examiner* remarks, "the choice of pictures for the engraving is most judicious, for no work could be more generally acceptable, or more characteristic of the excellent artist who produced them." The *Observer* says of "The Smile"

and "The Frown," that they are "inimitable pictures," engraved in a manner creditable in the highest degree to the talents of the artists; and ends with, "it is not saying too much to state that these are decidedly the best prints ever issued by the Art-Union of London." The *Morning Herald* says, the prints "are among the best yet issued by the society. They are accurate copies of the original paintings, which are as distinguished for their natural character as for their genuine humour." The *Morning Post* remarks, that these prints "are certainly the best the Art-Union has hitherto presented to the public." "Worth the price of the subscription." The *Morning Advertiser* calls them "two works of conspicuous attraction." The *Art-Journal* believes "that they will constitute the most popular presentation that has ever been made to the subscribers," and as to the "Seven Ages," that "they are surpassingly sweet in sentiment," full of "simple and severe elegance." The *Journal of Design* is of opinion, that the Websters are "excellent in subject and in treatment, and capital engravings," and that the series of the "Seven Ages," by MacIise, are "among the best of his designs," and elsewhere that they are "by far the richest return which has yet been offered to the subscribers, and ought to attract many additional thousands." Two of the writers in the *Times*, with counterfeited sorrow (one a reverend gentleman, who, it is to be hoped, for the sake of the souls committed to his charge, knows more about divinity than he does about art), lament that the council allows its functions to be exercised by one or two gentlemen. They will of course be delighted to be informed, that every Tuesday throughout the whole year the council meet, without intermission, in the season and out of the season, usually from twelve to sixteen in number, and never by any accident less than seven, and patiently and most anxiously determine on every step that is taken.

It is not our intention to reply to the ungracious letters in question, but feeling great interest in the progress of the Art-Union of London, and anxious that an institution which has done so much towards forming an art-loving and art-appreciating people, and which moreover benefits so largely an important class, should not be injured either by ignorance or malvolence, we have ventured to put together the foregoing opinions on the prints offered for the current year.

#### NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

SOME considerable alterations are being carried out at the Shire-hall, Chelmsford, and the petty session room is being converted into prisoners' cells.—The contract for a new mansion in Tortworth-park has been taken by a contractor from Lincoln. Earl Ducie means to spend at least 30,000*l.* on this new residence.—Some improvements have been recently made at the fish shambles, Louth, by Mr. P. Bellamy, of Lincoln, architect.—Tenders for sewers at Southampton have been lodged.—Mr. Richard Doepra to construct the Kingsland-place sewers, according to specifications, for 787*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*, and Spa-road sewers for 100*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*—Mr. Stevens for Kingsland-place 786*l.*, Spa-road 100*l.*—Mr. Emmett for Kingsland-place 765*l.*, Spa-road 130*l.*—Mr. C. E. Lansdell, Kingsland-place 750*l.*, Spa-road 130*l.* The unusually near agreement in the amount of the tenders excited some surprise. Each party also tendered for private drains: referred to committee. The tenders for Kingsland-place sewers were about 350*l.* above the surveyor's estimate, accounted for by necessary connections with the main sewers. Mr. Stevens's tender, at 100*l.*, for the Spa-road sewer, accepted.—The building of the new Government school at Wimborne has been begun.—The inhabitants of Stoke have resolved to purchase a piece of land for pleasure grounds and healthful recreation, particularly for the working classes.—The foundation stone of the Temperance-hall and Mechanics' Institute, at Grosvenor-street, Chorlton-on-Medlock, was to be laid on 1st inst.—The Stockport Temperance Society's hall will be 72 feet long by 42 feet wide, divided into three compartments by two ranges of columns lengthwise, making the central division 21 feet in width. In the basement will be class-

rooms and other apartments. The whole will be of brick and stone, with a lofty central doorway with rusticated Tuscan pilasters and entablature. The foundation-stone was laid on Wednesday week.—Ten shillings per thousand feet for gas at Otley, being "considered a most exorbitant charge by the consumers," says the *Bradford Observer*, means for enforcing a reduction of price have been resolved on.—On Saturday in week before last the foundation-stone of a new county hospital was laid at York.—Elaborate plans of the sewers of Newcastle and Gateshead, it is said, are being formed, at great expense, by the Town Improvement Committees. All the properties which have been connected by branch drains with the main sewers and all those which might have been connected will be delineated on these plans in distinctive colours. Such a guide to house purchasers and tenants ought to form a strong inducement to house proprietors to convert 'might have been' into 'have been' without further loss of time.—At Roseneath, a favourite resort of the citizens of Glasgow, reached by steam on the Clyde, seaward, the Duke of Argyll has resolved to fence out lots for villas to form a watering-place, and the plots or areas, of half an acre and upwards only, are being rapidly taken, and a steamer quay is to be shortly erected.—Mr. Raehurn, late architect (at Edinburgh) to the Woods and Forests, has furnished a design for a pyramid or obelisk, in commemoration of the battle of Culloden. He proposes to use bronzed cast-iron, in place of stone, and to form the whole at a cost of 250*l.* to 300*l.* The design consists of an obelisk-shaped pyramid, fluted, 60 feet high, with a base of 30 feet square, resting upon four gigantic balls, and affording space for figures and inscriptions in *basso relievo*. The vacant space beneath the base to be laid with whinstone, "so as to represent the shades of the slain." The foundations have been laid.—Her Majesty is said to have expressed a desire to have a Royal marine residence erected at Killiney, within eight miles of Dublin, on a promontory commanding a view of the bay.

#### NEW NORTHERN SCHOOLS, ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELDS, LONDON.

ON Tuesday last the Rev. Henry Mackenzie, vicar of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, laid the first stone of the new Northern Schools for that parish—the Royal parish as it is termed—in Castle-street, Long Acre.

Some time since the committee invited the architects resident in the parish to send in designs. Fifteen plans were in consequence submitted, and from these the committee selected one by Mr. James Wild, architect. As we shall engrave the elevation for our ensuing number, we shall not go into any particulars of the design now.

Messrs. Haward and Nixon, old residents in the parish, and deservedly respected there, are the builders.

The parish authorities and the friends of the undertaking afterwards took luncheon in the vestry-room, the Rev. Vicar pleasantly presiding. In the course of the few speeches which followed, it was stated that the Queen and the Prince had made a joint donation of 100*l.* towards the schools. The site was presented by the Mercers' Company, for 999 years, at 2*l.* per annum, and some idea of the value of it was given, when it was stated, that for about one-third of the ground, which was at present held for an unexpired term of 34 years, the tenant asked 1,250*l.* for his interest.

The schools are to accommodate 800 children, and have the peculiarity of a covered play-ground on the top of them.

The health of the architect was very properly included in the list of toasts.

#### MONUMENTS FOR MADRAS CATHEDRAL.

—Mr. E. Richardson, sculptor, is engaged on the Dick and Broadfoot testimonials for Madras Cathedral. The artist having chosen for the former a veteran highlander of Sir Robert Dick's regiment, the 42nd, has just completed his models from picked men at the depot of the regiment at Parkhurst. These works, raised by a general subscription throughout the presidency of Madras, will be executed in marble.